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AN ADDRESS

Delivered June 9, 1865, in Commencement Hall,

OF THE

UNIVERSITY AT LEWISBURG, PA.,

BEFORE THE

STUDENTS OF THE SEVERAL DEPARTMENTS.

On the Occasion of their Celebrating the Completion

OF THE

ENDOWMENT FUND,

By J. R. LOOMIS, LL. D.,

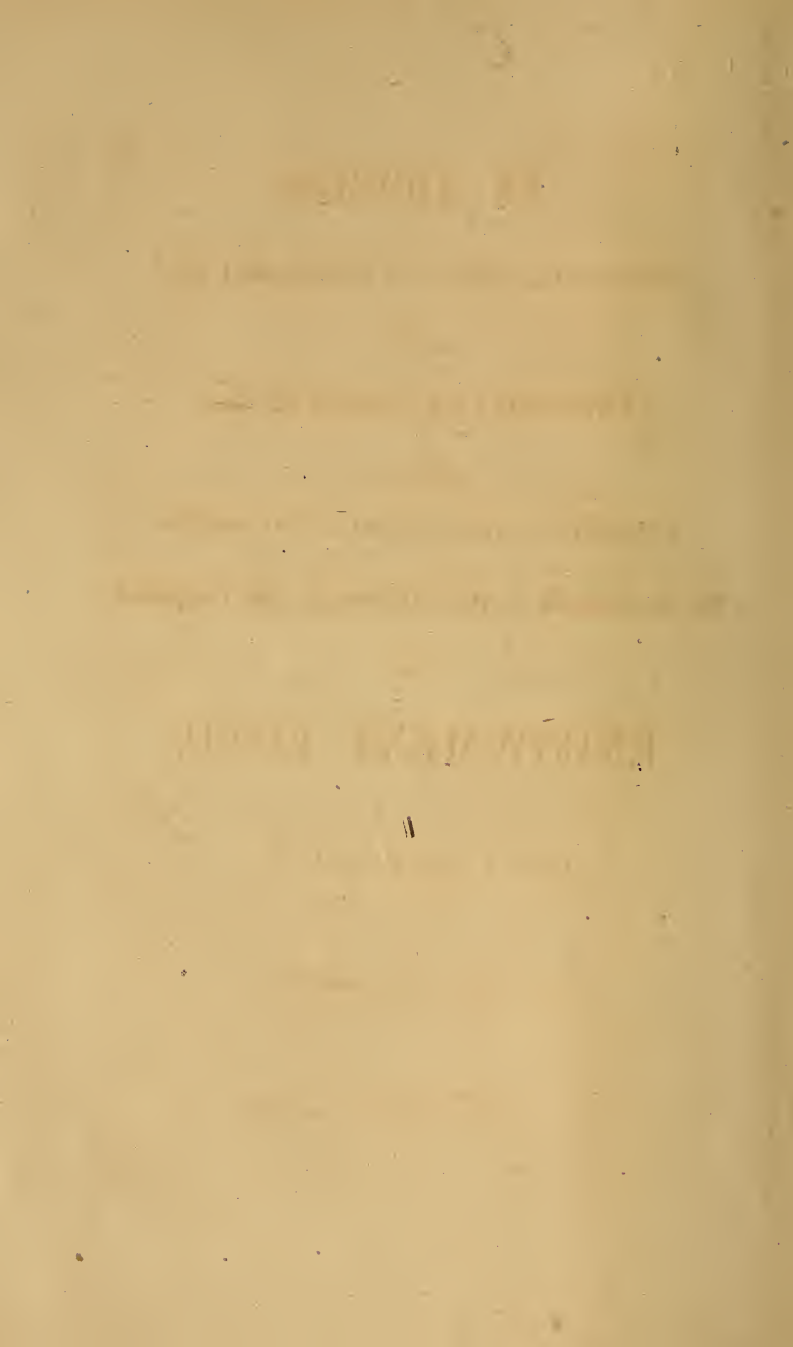
President.

PUBLISHED BY REQUEST.

LEWISBURG, PA.:

J. R. CORNELIUS, PRINTER, "CHRONICLE" OFFICE.

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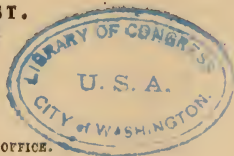
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ADDRESS.

The circumstances which have occasioned this gathering are somewhat peculiar, and it is proper that a brief reference should be made to them.

An effort was in progress, (to which I shall again refer,) to raise, by subscription, the sum of one hundred thousand dollars, for the further endowment of this University. The sum is a large one, and it was by no means certain that it could be secured. At a most important crisis in this enterprise, and when it had not occurred to me even to inquire whether help could come from such a source, by a spontaneous movement among the students in the several departments of this University, a subscription was raised of more than one thousand dollars. The encouragement, as well as the actual help it rendered to me, and the interests of which it was a proof on your part, constitute a sufficient reason for some special rejoicing, now, when the effort has proved a successful one; and I regard it as no ordinary privilege that I am permitted to participate with you in your jubilant feelings on this occasion.

It will not be out of place to devote a little time, this morning, to some of the general facts which characterize the collegiate institutions of our country. And I refer, in the first place, to their religious and, perhaps I should say, denominational character. If this were so in a very narrow sense, and so as to betray a spirit of bigotry, nothing could be more objectionable. But such is not the fact. All our colleges are accessible to young men of correct habits and sufficient attainments. We are free from all that are called religious tests. We are free from any required practices and observances which characterize particular denominations. We introduce into the curriculum of study no subjects or authors of a religious character which are not of the most catholic spirit. In these respects, our colleges have no denominational bias. They receive students of any religious belief, and without regard to denominational distinctions; and there is not, it may be presumed, a college in the coun-

try in which the students do not represent several of the denominational religious organizations. In their educational character, therefore, they are freer from the enforcement of denominational peculiarities than the colleges of any other country in christendom. We do not except those of Germany even, while those of England and of the catholic countries of Europe do teach the sectarianism of their peculiar views. The literary institutions of countries beyond the pale of christendom are intensely sectarian, making their religious views, whether Hebrew, Mohamedan or heathen, the basis, and almost the superstructure, of their educational efforts.

In this view, then, our colleges are established on a more liberal basis than any other in the world. But there is, nevertheless, a sense in which they are denominational. The Board of Control, under various names, has a denominational cast. In some cases, the charter, or by-laws, require that all the members of the board, or a majority of them, be members of a particular branch of the Christian church. In other cases, a majority of the board is actually of one form of belief, and thus the institution assumes its denominational character, without any stipulation of charter or by-laws. A college is no more strictly denominational when it is made so by legal enactment than when it becomes so by the circumstance of a majority of its board of control being such as to give it a denominational character.

Several of our American colleges were originally established as institutions of the State, purely. Of this class we may name Harvard University, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Virginia and Michigan University. But so strong is the tendency towards denominational control, that several have yielded, and all will yield to it.

What, then, is the nature of this denominational character of American colleges, of which so much is said? It is not in the course of instruction—not in the forms and observances required—not in any circumstances pertaining to its educational character or practical workings—not in anything which affects the student. It is altogether exterior to what may be designated as “student life.” It consists in the influence which denominational views have in appointments to the board of control and the board of instruction, and the influence which these must have in securing patron-

age and pecuniary support. Some modification of these statements may be necessary in reference to the Catholic institutions of the country. If they were subject to inspection, and were not sectarian in their teachings we should feel that they were worthy of general local patronage equally with the other denominational colleges.

We naturally inquire how it has come to pass that, while the educational establishments of all other countries are controlled by the State, those of this country, where the form of government most imperatively demands a general diffusion of education, are almost exclusively neglected by the State, and sustained by the several religious denominations. It results mainly from the freedom of our government and the absence of a State religion. There is in England such freedom in religious matters that a large proportion of the people are dissenters from the established religion. Still, they have but small influence in the general scheme of education. They can establish no institution with power to confer degrees, and hence their efforts in educational matters are confined mainly to the education of those who are candidates for the ministry. With us, there are no such restraints. Any association of individuals which can promise the requisite funds and patronage, may receive from the Legislature the legal right to hold the requisite endowments, furnish instruction and confer degrees. The several religious denominations have promptly availed themselves of these opportunities. The motive is primarily, in most cases, to provide instruction in literature and science for those who are afterwards to become divinity students. And to a large proportion of the membership of the churches this continues to be the chief motive, as it should be to all an important one. But with a large number of the better informed, there is superadded the more general motive of furnishing higher instruction, embracing the full range of liberal culture, to all who may choose to avail themselves of such instruction. The maintenance of literary institutions is, in fact, become essential to denominational growth and even respectability. There is no sect that does not feel the advantage of having men of position in social, political or military life among its membership—that does not feel the elevating influence of ecclesiastical association with authors, jurists and statesmen—that does not feel a

commendable pride in claiming denominational affinity with men of mark and influence and position and authority in a civil and political point of view. This relation can be established with those only who have a cultivated ministry and who appreciate and furnish culture. In a word, the educational life of a religious denomination is the measure and the means of its social status and influence.

Such seem to be the motives which have thrust forward the several divisions of the Christian church in this country, to take upon themselves the whole burden, and to claim the whole privilege of conducting the scheme of liberal education among us. It is pre-eminently the outgrowth of that provision in our organic law by which we are debarred from an established religion. It is not because our republican form of government is averse to higher education. Where in the world will you find so large a proportion of the people educated? It is not because our legislators do not appreciate liberal education. There would have been no backwardness in the establishment and endowment of State universities. As a matter of fact, there is no small degree of chagrin on the part of legislators in many of the States, because the governmental function of furnishing facilities for higher education has been in a measure monopolized by ecclesiastical organizations. And hence the disposition, in some States, to interpose conditions, by legislative enactments, upon the colleges which are under denominational control. Other States try to cheat themselves and the public into the establishment of State colleges by calling them "Agricultural colleges," and mutilating the college curriculum. No charge can be made against our State authorities as averse to providing for higher education. The denominational intervention has not been because of any sluggishness on the part of governments, but from a higher sense of religious obligation.

The fact, then, is, that most of our colleges and universities are under denominational control. Then, of the few colleges which have been established as State institutions, a part have passed under denominational control, and the remaining part must inevitably take upon themselves a denominational character at no distant day. The tendency and the actual state of things justify us in saying that **THE AMERICAN SYSTEM OF LIBERAL EDUCATION** consists in the

establishment of seats of learning under denominational control.

Accepting this as a fact, let us turn for a moment to its practical workings. Have they been beneficial? It might, at first, be suspected that such a system would tend to embitter denominational feeling. But the opposite effect has been produced. As the object of these institutions in the furnishing of liberal education under denominational control, it becomes a matter of courtesy to exclude, or at least to temper, all sectarian discussions.

Another effect has been to separate educational affairs from partizan politics. While the moral aspect of all the questions of the day are freely discussed, there is, by common consent, a perfect freedom for professor and pupil to be favorable or indifferent to either the men or the measures of any political organization, without working alienation of feeling, or loss of privilege, or forfeiture of position. Security in office is not dependent on the political complexion of a legislature.

A third effect of this system is a more general interest in education. Very few persons are found in any community who have not some denominational preferences, and these connect them strongly with the prosperity of particular seats of learning. They give their money, and they give their influence. They know of youth who are about to enter some institution of learning, and they recommend the one towards which their ecclesiastical bias inclines them. Every one becomes a promoter of education, by encouraging to enter a course of study those who are debating with themselves what course of life they shall adopt. This encouragement grows out of their interest in some institution of learning. And thus, while each institution has its fair proportion of patronage, the entire public is awake to the educational progress of the generation that is coming on to fill the places of trust, and influence, and emolument in the land.

The last advantage of this system to which I shall refer is the religious and moral effects. We have seen that no narrow sectarianism is encouraged. But a high morality and attention to personal religion are prominent among the influences of colleges. There is, generally, no organic connection between them and the churches, and yet there is

a relation of very great importance. There is thus excluded all irreligious instruction or influence. No professor could retain his position and give expression to the irreligious views which have from time to time raised to great popularity some of the professors in German universities. But in this influence, churches go much further than that. They control the institutions. In every question of religion and morality, the animus of a college proceeds from the churches. Unconsciously to themselves, and unobserved by the faculty or students, they transfer their own religious character into the educational system of the country. And thus it is that, in the management of funds, in the appointments to office, in the moral tone of the instruction given, in the government exercised, and in the effect which all these have over the classes of a college, the moral power and the Christian influence of the great mass of the Christian church is reflected. This could never be in a strictly State institution, as is most lamentably by the actual history of those which still receive their support, and depend upon appointments, from the State executive or from a board of control that is itself the creature of a fluctuating legislature and corrupt legislation.

With this general exposition of the American system of collegiate institutions, I pass to some statements in regard to the efforts of the denomination in Pennsylvania, in educational matters. This denomination had very considerable strength in Philadelphia and the contiguous parts in Pennsylvania and New Jersey as early as the first half of the eighteenth century, and they were then among the foremost in their plans for the establishment of a seat of learning. Somewhat more than a century ago, James Manning a native of New Jersey and a graduate of Princeton college, presented to the Philadelphia Baptist Association a scheme for putting them into operation. His proposition was approved, and it was understood that Manning would devote himself to its accomplishment? As we then had no other seat of learning the plan naturally awakened interest in other States, including all of New England and New York, and extending as far South as South Carolina. The charter of the colony of Rhode Island was more liberal in its provisions than that of any other colony, and on that account it was deemed proper to locate in Rhode Island. The small beginnings at first

made by President Manning, and the struggles of the University for existence during many years, rehearsed in our day, would excite a smile if we did not know that the toil in poverty and in hope at that day laid the foundation of what is now Brown University.

It will be seen, then, that that University originated in Philadelphia, that it was designed to be the seat of learning for the denomination in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. But peculiar circumstances not only led to its establishment in Rhode Island but made it necessary that the denomination here should support it. And when our national independence had been secured and dependence upon colonial condition ceased, Brown University was a fixture in Rhode Island. Thus the denomination in New Jersey and Pennsylvania lost a most important advantage. Whether the location of Brown University where it is has been most serviceable to the denomination we will not discuss. We only speak of the hindrance to the growth of the denomination here. We can hardly estimate the advantage which would have accrued to us from the existence among us for the last hundred years of such an Institution as Brown University.

Some fifty years later the denomination became sufficiently numerous to propose again to establish a seat of learning. Accordingly Dr. Staughton commenced in a private way an Institution in Philadelphia. It soon received the sanction of the denomination and would ere long have become a college. But just at that time the Triennial Convention was formed in Philadelphia, and it was regarded as essential that the enterprise which Dr. Staughton was having charge of should come under its auspices. Thus it, too, for some of those reasons of State which are not always the most satisfactory, was transferred to Washington, and became Columbian College. Thus twenty more years were lost in inaugurating the movement, transferring the institution and recovering from the subsequent paralysis.

In the year 1835, an institution was established under the patronage of the Baptists in the immediate vicinity of Philadelphia, and known as Haddington College. It continued in full operation only two years, and was suspended. The effort was, perhaps, a spasmodic one; yet it was of no inconsiderable use. To a large number of young men it

gave a start in higher education and established such a taste for study as to ensure a further prosecution of it. But a more important end was accomplished by convincing the leading men of the denomination that a broader pecuniary basis was necessary than they had before thought would be requisite.

Thus it will be seen that while the Baptist denomination had for a hundred years been making efforts for the establishment of a college for themselves they had so far been unsuccessful. Their efforts had been so overruled that while they labored other States appropriated the fruits. They continued to contribute both men and money for institutions beyond their borders.

In the year 1845 a movement was inaugurated in the Northumberland Association for the establishment of a college in central Pennsylvania. The details of the movement I need not dwell upon nor state the particular agency of the prominent men by whom the early efforts were put forth. And yet I can hardly allow myself to pass by this reference to the early history of the University at Lewisburg without naming as among its originators, Dr. W. H. Ludwig, Dr. Taylor, James Moore, Sen., and Samuel Wolfe, who have all passed away. Nor would it be excusable in me to omit in the briefest enumeration the names of Rev. Joel E. Bradley, Hon. G. F. Miller, and Joseph Meixell, James Moore, Thomas Wattson, Dr. Kincaid, and Dr. Shadrach, as prominent among those who labored through many dark days in the early struggles to establish and perpetuate this University. If time permitted, and there were no indelicacy in eulogies upon the living, we could not enter upon a more welcome theme than calling up and setting before you the unrequited and self-denying labors of these pioneers in the work, the completion of which you meet this day to celebrate.

But we must be content merely to name a few of the leading men, and pass to the measures which they adopted. The first thing in every such enterprise is to raise funds. It was proposed to raise one hundred thousand dollars by subscription, and that sum was at length subscribed. It was, however, subscribed mostly in small sums, and payable in four installments. I knew of one subscription of fifty cents which was ac-

tually paid in installments of $12\frac{1}{2}$ cents each without any effort at repudiation, and probably with as distinct a consciousness of contributing to the enterprise as those who had aided by subscriptions of hundreds. But it could not be expected that such subscriptions especially the later installments and the smaller sums would be all collected, and in fact not quite eighty thousand dollars including the New Jersey subscription was ultimately received.

Of this sum a part was at once invested and constituted the beginning of a permanent endowment. With the remaining portion of this sum the present site of the University buildings was purchased. The Academy and West Wing of the University building were erected, and the appliances necessary for the reception of students and the opening of instruction were obtained. The first school, preliminary to a fuller organization, was taught in the present basement of the Baptist church.

About the year 1852, a second effort was made to collect funds, and \$45,000 was raised by a few men of means without a general canvassing for that purpose.

Some \$20,000 has been realized from the sale of lands, and 30,000 has been received from subscriptions made in 1857 and 1858 to obtain the means of completing the University edifice. Thus the entire receipts of the University from all sources (except tuition bills) has been \$175,000.

This sum of \$175,000 has been expended as follows :

Cost of Land and improvements on it.....	\$9,000
Academy Building.....	8,000
Institute Building and apparatus.....	20,000
University Building.....	50,000
Permanent fixtures: Lib. Cab. Phil. app.....	10,000

Total.....	\$97,000
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Present amount of permanent investment.....	55,000
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Cash cost of the assets of the University.....	\$152,000
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There was expended in travelling expenses, agency, interest paid, balances (not covered by tuition,) due and paid to professors up to 1858.....

	\$23,000
	<u>\$175,000</u>

Since 1858, no moneys have been raised by subscription, and yet the annual expenses have been considerably more than the income from tuition and interest on the funds invested. A debt has been of necessity gradually accumulating. Within the last three years, some efforts have been made to relieve from this embarrassment. It was at first proposed to raise a few thousand dollars and pay off the debt. But the better class of business men felt no disposition to aid in furnishing a merely temporary relief, and the attempt was abandoned. Subsequently, it was proposed to increase the endowment by selling scholarships. But the same class of men hesitated about adopting such a plan, and ultimately gave their influence against it. Not that they were opposed to scholarships, but they doubted whether our endowment was large enough to justify it. Last fall it was abandoned, or at least put in abeyance till a further endowment could be obtained. In order to maintain the institution, there seemed but one course left. It was so to increase the endowment that the present liabilities could be met, and the present board of instruction increased by filling the chair of Belles Lettres, fully sustained from the sources of permanent income. Men of large capital and liberal views were favorably disposed to a project of this kind, and to nothing else. It was at length resolved to see whether it could be realized. The work was begun in January last, and was prosecuted with more of prayer than faith. Mr. John P. Crozer, with his accustomed liberality, gave the first pledge, which was for \$20,000. Messrs. E. A. Cory, of New York, Horatio Mulford, of Bridgeton, New Jersey, Thomas Wattson, John C. Davis, J. P. Levy and J. C. Neafie, all of Philadelphia, followed with pledges of \$5,000 each. Mr. Jacob Reese, of Pittsburgh, also is a subscriber to the same amount, \$5,000. (The names of all the subscribers will be preserved in the archives of the Board of Trustees.) Thus, half the sum was raised, and one does not see why a few hours might not have been enough to complete the work thus far, and perhaps no one without some experience in that line can fully realize all the appointments, explanations, corrections and delays which are incident to what might have seemed a few hours' work. Of the remaining half, more than thirty thousand dollars were in

subscriptions of not less than five hundred dollars each, and ten thousand in subscriptions not less than one hundred each. Thus it will be seen that the body of the subscription is in large sums, and there is, therefore, less probability of shrinkage in the collection than there would be if it consisted largely of subscriptions in small amounts. I have all confidence that the full sum will be realized.

I have now made perhaps all the statements that are necessary to a full understanding of what has been done in the way of establishing and endowing this University. When this last subscription has been collected, there will have been paid one quarter of a million for that purpose, of which more than half will be invested as permanent endowment, while two-thirds of the remainder exist permanently in the form of land and buildings.

I would by no means say that it is all that we shall ever need or all that we could profitably use now. But it is such that the income will enable the institution to maintain, without the chance of subsequent embarrassment, a high literary position among the colleges of the land. It will be such a foundation as no college in the country except Harvard University has had until within a very few years. The history of American colleges has been a history of financial embarrassment. Before the second decade of our existence is completed, we have an endowment that will, with proper management, preclude the fear of difficulties in that direction hereafter.

The brief review which has now been given will show that among the patrons of the University a noble generosity has existed. If there have ever been disparaging remarks as if its friends were lukewarm towards it, we have here an abundant refutation. For the body of its friends have not given sparingly. They have not given on a sudden and single impulse and then relapsed into indifference, but they have given repeatedly and largely. They have not given from an overflowing abundance, in which case their efforts would cost no sacrifice, but they have, in general, taken from moneys which they needed for other purposes, and when it was a sacrifice to part with these sums, which they have, nevertheless, parted with freely.

I will add that this last effort is not of a local character, but it enlisted the friends of the University in all parts of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. One effect will therefore be to cement the feeling of union between them through this wide range. The University is the only object for which they contribute in common. The success of the University will, therefore, be the one common bond of union.

It has sometimes been said that a college has seldom its friends near home; that its neighbors give it the cold shoulder, and think of its students that their room is more acceptable than their company. I may be pardoned for indulging some feeling of pride that our students have thus far maintained that propriety of deportment and rectitude of character which has, in the main, challenged approval, and that none of those feuds and animosities have grown up which in some other colleges have been a source of constant annoyance. And on the other hand, the citizens of Lewisburg have given substantial proof of their appreciation of the University, both by the patronage which they have extended and the pecuniary assistance which they have rendered. And I will take this occasion to state, as nearly as I have it in my power to do, the amount of the contributions from Lewisburg to the establishment and endowment of the University:

On the first \$100,000.....	\$12,131
On the Building Fund.....	14,700
On this last \$100,000.....	10,359
	\$37,190

This does not include the subscription made by the students during the last few weeks. These subscriptions were made in 1848, in 1857 and in 1865; and they are such as give one confidence in telling, whenever there is occasion to do so, what Lewisburg has done. I therefore feel pride in greeting you as citizens on this occasion.

This endowment enterprise was begun in the most private way, and it became known to the students in the several departments of the University only in the way of rumor and current intelligence. But when the leading facts became known, you came forward unsought and offered your noble and voluntary offering towards the completion of the work. While it was a purely unsolicited and benevolent

action on your part, I doubt whether any act of great magnitude among your best laid plans will have a more permanent or desirable influence. Most of our efforts have but little importance beyond the immediate result. But that which goes to influence one's character may be lasting beyond the limits of time, and that which goes to the formation of character, not in one but in many and in successive classes, for many years, even though it may seem to you trivial now, will be remembered in future years with most satisfaction as among your best works. I may presume to represent the Board of Trustees so far as to express to you their thanks for this welcome and unexpected aid.

I have thought that I could not better meet your views when you have met to celebrate the completion of an endowment enterprise for the University than by giving you briefly its antecedent financial history. I think few Institutions have had a more satisfactory one thus far or bid fairer for a satisfactory one in the future. Many of you I shall yet meet in the class room and in other relations for years to come. But soon even those of you who remain the longest will be scattered and enter upon the sterner, if not rougher experience of practical life. But as I may from time to time meet you when you cease to be the student and become the citizen the various pleasant incidents which characterize your years of pupilage here will be gathered up into feelings with which I shall meet you then. And nothing in your history here will furnish a subject of more pleasant memory than your handsome and liberal participation in this endowment enterprise. I trust you may never have occasion to entertain other feelings than those of pride for the University, and that you will ever exert yourselves in its behalf.

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